

brings before us a picture which shows how some members of the medical profession carry on in altruistic service to lay fellows, when participation and leadership in the work assumed is apt to not only bring little or no praise, but where one mistake of judgment might draw down blame or disaster; a heavy penalty to those who have in their minds and hearts no more than the thought and desire to serve their fellows. California can take pride in making its modest beginning of the State Narcotic Hospital at Spadra, and should be grateful to all those who took an active part in bringing the institution into being. It is hoped the executive and legislative officers of California will sense the importance and gravity of the work and that they will give the institution that adequate support which its objects so richly merit.

RESEARCH AND CLINICAL PRIZE PAPERS OF THE C. M. A.

How the Annual Research and Clinical Prizes of the California Medical Association Came Into Being.—Several years ago, after considerable discussion, the Council of the California Medical Association came to the conclusion that it would be to the advantage of the Association and to all concerned if two prizes of \$150 each were annually granted to members of the California Medical Association: one prize for an outstanding paper or study on a clinical subject, and the other prize for a paper on a more general research. After a brief trial it became evident that a considerable number of members who were seemingly interested in these prizes were, nevertheless, somewhat reluctant to engage in what seemed to partake too much of a competitive contest. The rules were accordingly broadened, so that a member who intended to present a paper at one of the section meetings of an annual session would be permitted to do so, and yet through proper notification could have his paper duly entered in one of the prize competitions. The Council also decided to issue a dignified certificate of award so that the winners might have a tangible reminder of the contest after the money emoluments had been dissipated.

In the July issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 65, were printed the rules and general information concerning these contests. (See also page 216, in this issue.) The secretary of the Association will be glad to answer letters for information. Papers are supposed to be not more than four thousand words in length.

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Officers Were Surprised When No Prize Papers Were Submitted at the 1929 San Diego Annual Session.—The officers of the Association were much surprised when not a single clinical or research paper was presented at the 1929 San Diego annual session. In the event of a similar experience next year at Del Monte, the Council will be obliged to conclude that the prizes are of little interest to any of the more than 4500 members of the California Medical Association;

and the question of discontinuing them necessarily will come up for consideration.

The officers of the Association believe the prizes should be continued, for among the many members of the California Medical Association there are many who think clearly and ably on clinical and other subjects. Attention to these prizes is here given in order to urge members to put aside their diffidence and to enter their papers. No publicity is attached thereto for those who do not receive prizes; for only those papers with names of authors are mentioned in the Prize Committee report which receive the stipulated prizes or honorable mention. All papers intended for the 1930 prize competition consideration must be in the hands of the secretary of the Association not later than December 20, 1929. If work on such papers is lagging, authors are reminded that it would be wise to put in some extra work during the summer months, before the busy fall and holiday seasons are at hand. Prize or no prize, the efforts to make studies and produce papers worthy of prize consideration will in themselves amply reward all members who submit papers. It is hoped that the Prize Committee, of which Dr. George Dock is chairman, will have serious work before it after December 20, 1929. Nothing would give that committee greater pleasure.

MEDICAL DIPLOMA MILL IN ILLINOIS— HAS CALIFORNIA A BRANCH OFFICE?

Illinois Diploma Mill Scandal of 1922 Reappears.—California newspapers of August 7 printed Associated Press dispatches with a Chicago item which stated that "an assistant state's attorney of Illinois, who until recently was head of the indictment department of the state's attorney's office, was seized for questioning early today, when investigators were told that he had disclosed the state's plans to persons involved in the medical diploma mill investigation."

An editorial in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of August 3, in discussing this new Illinois diploma scandal, stated: "The newspapers report that the license mill ring of which Miller is said to be the head is alleged to have issued more than a thousand licenses at an average of about \$2000 each. The journal hopes that the present investigation may amount to more than did the one conducted seven years ago."

Readers of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE may recall that in its issue of January 1929, pages 65 to 69, was printed a most illuminating survey of the original Illinois scandal of 1922. Editorial mention also was made of that article in connection with a discussion of the original draft of the plan for the proposed California Department of Professional and Vocational Standards which was then before the legislature.

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Leopards Do not Change Their Spots.—It is most illuminating to note that, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*,